

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:BAFLECK:JSARTORIUS:KWBLEAKLEY:PAW
APPROVED BY EA/PHL:BAFLECK
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R 232144Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 200822

STADIS //////////////////////////////////////
FOR EA ONLY, MANILA POUCH CEBU

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MARR, ETRD, PINT, EAIR, TBIO, RP

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - PHILIPPINES

TO : EA - MR. HOLBROOKE
FROM: EA/PHL - BENJAMIN A. FLECK

1. BASE NEGOTIATIONS (CONFIDENTIAL)

THE ACTING SECRETARY HAS APPROVED OUR MEMORANDUM
RECOMMENDING A PROMPT REPLY TO THE DIPLOMATIC NOTE SUB-
MITTED ON AUGUST 17 BY THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY, REQUESTING
THAT WE RESUME BASE NEGOTIATIONS IMMEDIATELY. THE REPLY
WILL CONFIRM U.S. WILLINGNESS TO ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THE
BASES QUESTION AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE. IT WILL
DESCRIBE YOUR PLANNED SEPTEMBER VISIT TO MANILA AS AN
OPPORTUNITY TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR FRUITFUL NEGOTIA-
TIONS.

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BOB OAKLEY AND I LUNCHEDED WITH AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ TODAY.
OAKLEY CONFIRMED TO ROMUALDEZ YOUR PROPOSED VISIT AND DIS-
CUSSION WITH MARCOS. ROMUALDEZ APPEARED PLEASED AND URGED
THAT AGREEMENT ON PRINCIPLES BE SOUGHT PRIOR TO RESUMPTION
OF NEGOTIATIONS ON DETAILED AGREEMENT. ROMUALDEZ STATED
HIS BELIEF THAT DURING NEGOTIATIONS LAST YEAR BOTH
NEGOTIATING TEAMS WERE TOO LARGE, MAKING THE NEGOTIATING

PROCESS TOO RIGID AND CUMBERSOME. BOB AND I REPLIED THAT LAST YEAR'S PROCEDURES HAD BEEN ADMINISTRATIVELY TROUBLE-SOME FOR US ALSO AND THAT WE ARE OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING NEGOTIATING PROCEDURES.

2. ECONOMIC TREATY NEGOTIATIONS (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

OAKLEY INFORMED ROMUALDEZ THAT OUR PREFERRED DATE FOR HEGINBOTHAM DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC TREATY NEGOTIATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 6. ROMUALDEZ REPLIED THAT GOP ALSO PREFERS THAT DATE.

3. PSINAKIS DECIDES AGAINST MANILA TRIP (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

STEVE PSINAKIS RECENTLY AGAIN REQUESTED EA/PHL'S ASSIST-ANCE IN OBTAINING A REPLY FROM THE GOP ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER HE WOULD BE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE PHILIPPINES IN THE EVENT HE TRAVELLED TO MANILA. WHEN WE PUT THE QUES-TION TO THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN A LOW-KEYED FASHION, DCM BELISARIO REITERATED THAT THE GOP WOULD NOT ISSUE PSINAKIS A VISA. FURTHER, A DECISION ON PERMITTING PSINAKIS' ENTRY WOULD BE MADE IN MANILA ONLY AT THE TIME OF HIS ARRIVAL. THE EMBASSY HAD QUERIED MANILA ON THIS POINT, AND HAD BEEN TOLD IN SO MANY WORDS, ACCORDING TO BELISARIO, THAT "PSINAKIS IS OLD AND MATURE ENOUGH TO KNOW WHAT HE IS CONFIDENTIAL

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DOING."

WHEN THIS WAS RELAYED TO PSINAKIS HE OBSERVED THAT IT WOULD BE A WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY TO FLY TO MANILA WITH A GOOD CHANCE OF BEING TURNED BACK. CONSEQUENTLY, HE HAS DECIDED TO "DEFER" HIS TRIP INDEFINITELY.

4. ABORTED PAL TAKEOFF IN HONOLULU (UNCLASSIFIED)

THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD ADVISED US DURING EVENING OF AUGUST 19 THAT PAL FLIGHT 170 FROM HONOLULU HAD ABORTED ITS TAKEOFF WITH INJURY TO 20 PEOPLE, INCLUDING ONE SERIOUSLY. FAA SENT AN INVESTIGATOR AND EA/PHL NOTI-FIED THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY.

AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ INFORMED US AUGUST 23 THAT ONE ENGINE HAD CAUGHT FIRE BUT HAS NOW BEEN REPLACED AND AIR-CRAFT DEPARTED FOR MANILA AUGUST 23.

5. CHOLERA (UNCLASSIFIED)

THE WASHINGTON POST AUGUST 23 PUBLISHED FOLLOWING ONE-

SENTENCE ITEM: "AN AMERICAN TOURIST RETURNING FROM THE

PHILIPPINES BROUGHT THE FIRST RECORDED CASE OF CHOLERA
INTO THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1961, HEALTH OFFICIALS IN
HONOLULU SAID."

COMMENT: WE TRUST THAT THIS CASE WILL NOT RESULT IN ANY-
THING LIKE RECENT FLAP OVER INTRODUCTION OF CHOLERA FROM
PHILIPPINES INTO JAPAN.

6. PLEASE NOTE FOR EA ONLY CAPTION.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 23-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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